MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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TO THE GT. TORRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL.

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Medical Officer's Report for Year ending

31st. Dec. 1939.

Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

Population 2,740.
Births 40. Birth rate 14.49
National Birth " 15.0
per 1,000.

Deaths 48. Death rate per 1,000 = 17.03.
National Death rate= 12.1.

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Principal Causes of Death.

Heart Disease	20.
Bronchitis	5.
Apoplexy	4.
Cancer	3.
Tuberculosis	2.

Infectious Diseases Notified, 1 case of Diphtheria.
At the end of the year, the following were on the T.B. Officer's list:-

Pulm: 8 males, 6 females. Non-Pulm: 2 males, 3 females. Total 19.
(Total 10 yrs. ago 60)

Fredk. Pridham. M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

LB

Brief Resume of Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector's Report
For the Year Ending 31st. December 1939.

Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

Water.

Apart from the necessary turning off for scraping of mains a constant supply of water was maintained throughout the year.

During the period, 227 defects were detected and remedied.

Constant attention to leak detection keeps this form of wastage down to a minimum.

The consumption of water continues to increase particularly was this so after the outbreak of hostilities when troops and Evacuees arrived.

In connection with the water supply, five samples were taken and sent for analysis, three of these samples were satisfactory.

During the period under review the 5" main from the reservoir to the Vicarage was scraped; this was the second occasion on which such work has been carried out by direct labour since my appointment and I understand the work was done once before that time.

The work was commenced on the 11th. April and was completed on the 24th. May. with a break off from 29th. April to 8th. May. for May Fair week.

With the exception of this week work proceeded from Mondays to Fridays inclusive; on Saturdays the water was not turned off.

On Mondays and Fridays the water was turned off from the whole town between the hours of approx. 9a.m. to 5p.m.

The work excluding Saturdays, thus occupied twenty eight (28) working days.

On the 24th. April one section cut out in Hill's field (ord. No. 391) was graphitic almost throughout it's thickness and another length thirty yards southward had a longitudinal crack ~~over 2 feet~~ of some long standing over 12" long although there was no evidence of leakage.

Another cut in the roadway opposite Burridge's linhays showed a longitudinal crack over 2 feet long yet here again there was no evidence of leakage: the side of the pipe which was cracked was barely a ¼" thick.

On the 17th. May two bursts occurred in the main along Calvesford road one just South of Burridge's linhays and the other at the top of Crowbear Lane just on the North side of a hatchbox.

The pipes generally were in such an advanced state on encrustation it was found possible only to scrape about one hundred yards at a time.

When the work was completed the supply of water to the town was very greatly improved.

Sanitary Inspection Of Area.

Total number of inspections ..... 155.

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Bakehouses, Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Total number of inspections.....20.

Sewerage.

Routine ~~xxxxxxxx~~ work of cleaning out all the sewage outfall tanks was commenced in December.

Housing.

Number of Inhabited Houses (appro.) 791.
Number of New Houses erected during the period:-
By Private Enterprise.....4
By Council .....0.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number on Register... ... ... 32.
" of Inspections of Cowsheds ... ... 35.
" " " " Dairies... ... ...35.

During the period 13 samples were taken and sent to the County Bacteriologist for analysis six were satisfactory.

Meat Inspections.

The following was condemned during the period under review:
14 lbs. Pork and 220 lbs of Beef.
There were two cases of emergency slaughter both in the grading pen of the Cattle Market.

General.

Full details of all inspections, etc., are available and will be retained for possible use at a more opportune time.
In common with all others similarly placed many additional duties have fallen to my lot on account of the war many of which cannot be definitely specified.
The following are amongst some of such duties which can be clearly specified:-

Local Fuel Overseer,
Chief Billeting Officer and
Local Petroleum Officer.

R.W.C. Kingsley, M.Inst. H.E.,&
M.R.San.I.
Borough Surveyor & Sanitary
Inspector.